



322527

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

DEC 23 1976

Mr. Edward R. Toth, Jr.
General Manager
RMI Corporation
Chlorine-Alkali Plant
46 State Road
P. O. Box 550
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

Dear Mr. Toth:

Recent analysis of fish collected in the Ashtabula River has shown high concentrations of hexachlorobenzene (HCB) (1.85 $\mu\text{g/g}$). This compound is highly toxic, has been shown to persist for long periods in the environment, and is known to accumulate as it passes up the food chain. It is extremely important that any discharges of HCB be located quickly so that further contamination of the River and the Great Lakes can be halted.

According to our information, the chlor-alkali or chlorinated hydrocarbons manufacturing processes employed at your facility at the above address have the potential for producing HCB as a byproduct. In addition to direct input of HCB to the River by way of a wastewater discharge, emission into the air resulting in exposure of the surrounding population or subsequent transfer to the River must also be considered a strong possibility. Air transport formed a critical link in a severe cattle contamination incident involving HCB in Louisiana in 1973.

I therefore request, pursuant to the authority provided by Section 308 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1316, and Section 114 of the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1857(c)-9, that your Company furnish EPA with information pertaining to the production, use, disposal, emission, or discharge of hexachlorobenzene, at the designated manufacturing facility from 1972 to the present.

RECEIVED DEC 27 1976

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
OHIO EPA

26 DEC 27 PM 1 22

RECEIVED